



America's Bishop: The Life and Times of Fulton J. Sheen

By Thomas C. Reeves

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Among Fulton J. Sheen's thousands of converts were celebrities such as Clare Booth Luce and Henry Ford II, and former communists Louis Budenz and Elizabeth Bentley. Reeves discusses these conversions and Sheen's close friendship with J. Edgar Hoover, and details for the first time the struggle between Sheen and his chief rival, Francis Cardinal Spellman, a battle of ecclesiastical titans that led all the way to the Pope and to Sheen's final humiliation and exile.

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America's Bishop: The Life and Times of Fulton J. Sheen By Thomas C. Reeves Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

It is hard to believe that this is the first and only full biography of Fulton J. Sheen, perhaps the most important American priest of the 20th century. Sheen was an enormously popular figure in his day, hosting radio and television programs that introduced and explained his faith to millions of listeners and viewers. (He even won an Emmy Award, and the actor Martin Sheen took his stage name from the man.) Thomas C. Reeves, author of the JFK biography *A Question of Character*, offers an absorbing account of Sheen's life and times. He uncovers fascinating details, including a phony academic degree and the particulars of a bitter dogfight with Francis Cardinal Spellman. Although this is not a hagiographic account, it is an admiring one: Sheen comes across as an astoundingly smart, charismatic, and generous man. No wonder he was such a successful evangelizer: he converted thousands, including Henry Ford II and Claire Booth Luce. He gained some notoriety for his strong anticomunism; reading *America's Bishop*, in fact, provides a concise history of Catholic anticomunism in the United States. It is an outstanding book that will appeal to fans of George Weigel's *Witness to Hope: The Biography of Pope John Paul II* and anybody else attracted to this fascinating figure. --John Miller

From Library Journal

One of the most influential American Catholic churchmen of the 20th century, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (1895-1979) here receives overdue historical and biographical attention. Reeves (history, Univ. of Wisconsin, Parkside), the author of various studies on U.S. presidents, liberal Christianity, and 20th-century U.S. history (e.g., *A Question of Character: The Life of John F. Kennedy*), applies meticulous scholarly investigation to his subject. He shows how Sheen influenced millions of people, teaching theology and philosophy at Catholic University (1926-50) and preaching on radio and television broadcasts that drew many converts, both high-profile and ordinary. A careful reading of Sheen's books which numbered over 60 reveals the staunch faith and proven scholarship underlying his media popularization of religion. Sheen also raised millions for the world's poor and publicly opposed communism, racism, and the Vietnam War. Differences with New York's Cardinal Spellman led him into "exile" as Bishop of Rochester, NY (1966-69), after which he continued to preach, travel, write, and maintain a voluminous correspondence. Reeves has done a yeoman's service in gathering fragmented sources and pointing out archival deficiencies on his subject. Highly recommended for most libraries. Anna M. Donnelly, St. John's Univ., Jamaica, NY

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From Booklist

Reeves does an outstanding job of painting a multifaceted portrait of a complex public figure. The most prominent and influential Catholic personality in the U.S., the charismatic Sheen hosted his own Emmy Award-winning TV show during his heyday in the 1950s. Able to reach millions of viewers and potential converts at one time, he became the foremost evangelist for the Roman Catholic Church. A gifted orator, theologian, and philosopher, the often controversial preacher tackled a variety of sensitive subjects, including the inherent evil of racism, the threat of Communism, and the rise of secularism in American society. Although an admirer of Sheen, the author does not gloss over his subject's all-too-human failings, documenting Sheen's less-than-saintly struggles with greed, vanity, and pride. *Margaret Flanagan*
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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joshua Lippert:

The feeling that you get from America's Bishop: The Life and Times of Fulton J. Sheen is the more deep you looking the information that hide in the words the more you get interested in reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to recognise but America's Bishop: The Life and Times of Fulton J. Sheen giving you buzz feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in particular way that can be understood simply by anyone who read the item because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This kind of book also makes your current vocabulary increase well. Therefore it is easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We suggest you for having that America's Bishop: The Life and Times of Fulton J. Sheen instantly.

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Elizabeth Walborn:

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grown up. The terminology styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The writer made some study when he makes this book. That's why this book ideal all of you.

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